

LOUISIANA SHRIMP HARVESTER ADVISORY PANEL

MINUTES

March 23, 2010

THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
2000 QUAIL DRIVE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of January 6, 2010 Minutes
- V. Discussion on use of Modified Beam Trawls
- VI. Discussion of State Shrimp Management Opportunities
- VII. Discussion on use of Sodium Tripolyphosphates in Shrimp Processing
- VIII. Discussion of Proposed Settlement of Shrimp Anti-Dumping Orders with Thailand
- IX. Set Next Meeting Date and New Agenda Items
- X. Receive Public Comment
- XI. Adjourn

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

THE LOUISIANA SHRIMP HARVESTER ADVISORY PANEL

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 9:30 AM

Martin Bourgeois, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, presiding.

In Attendance:

Ronnie Anderson
Acy Cooper
Pete Gerica
Clint Guidry
Timmy Truong
Lance Nacio
A.J. Fabre
Nicholas Alfonso
George Barisich

Absences:

Bryan Crawford
Jerome Jones
Tommy Cheramie
Scott St. Pierre

Marty Bourgeois called the meeting to order and roll was called. Four absences were noted. He asked the panel to examine the packets in front of them. Then he asked if agenda item #7 (Presentation on use of Sodium Tripolyphosphates in Shrimp Processing) could be moved directly after item #4 in consideration of Dr. Lucina Lampila's time. Mr. Bourgeois also noted that the panel members should look over the draft certification document.

A motion was made by Clint Guidry to include the draft shrimp task force legislation in the agenda. The motion was seconded by Acy Cooper. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Guidry objected to a statement written into the minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting minutes in which he stated that "Thailand pays terrorists for shrimp production" and he requested a review of the tapes from the January 27, 2010 meeting because he feels they were inaccurate.

Mr. Bourgeois suggested a review of the tapes for accuracy.

A motion was made by Clint Guidry to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Pete Gerica. The motion carried unanimously.

Ronnie Anderson said he prefers the recordings since they are exactly what the panel members say.

Dr. Lampila gave a presentation about phosphates and seafood. Her presentation included the following information: food phosphates must meet food chemicals codex six standards; there are specific allowable levels of condensed phosphate; in the US, any phosphate regarded as "GRAS" (generally recognized as safe) is permitted; the method for getting phosphoric acid from ore and further treatments which yield sodium tripolyphosphates (STPP); the product used is typically 98-99% pure; applications for seafood products; function in muscle food product and how it works with salt to preserve food and protect its appearance; STPP treatment helps mechanically peeled shrimp stay whole and juicy; there is a higher percent of moisture pick-up by meat in STPP; over-exposure leads to bad product that doesn't cook properly; abuse of STPP increases shrimp size inside the shell, moisture stays in and makes the product gummy; seafood begins to lose moisture immediately after leaving the water. Sodium tripolyphosphates react better with use of tap water because brackish water can cause formation of crystals in the shrimp.

Nick Alfonso asked Dr. Lampila if the salt tanks they use on board shrimp boats do damage to the product.

Dr. Lampila replied that it would add a little bit of salt to the shrimp. She then stated that a way to test product for over-treatment with STPP is currently being developed.

Mr. Anderson said that tri-poly should not be allowed to be used in the new brand of Louisiana shrimp.

Randy Pausina said that the Task Force wants to concentrate on putting out good seafood product. He also mentioned that the second draft of the shrimp certification program contract with LSU was up for review this afternoon at the task force meeting.

Timmy Truong said that he has been using a corn syrup product with his shrimp (frozen in sacks) and that they look good and stay white. He said a major problem is that shrimp can go bad at the dock, during processing or shipping too, not just on the shrimpers boats because they are not properly taken care of.

Mr. Guidry said that a stepwise process is needed if the panel wants to change the way shrimp are sold, the industry cannot go from the way things are done now to an organic process overnight.

Mr. Anderson said the panel should bring to the public's attention that Louisiana shrimp is a lead-free product.

Mr. Bourgeois called the panel's attention to the draft shrimp task force bill (HB 875). He said that bona fide commercial shrimpers and others will be task force members and the state agency representatives will be non-voting members.

Mr. Guidry suggested a re-wording of part of the shrimp task force bill so that the group will have to compromise to get things done.

A motion was made by Mr. Guidry to amend the draft shrimp task force creation bill section 494, Louisiana shrimp task force, paragraph B.(5), to read: "Four members and four alternate members, appointed by the Governor, each of whom possesses a commercial fisherman's license with a "certified" endorsement pursuant to R.S. 56:303(E) or elected representatives of a Louisiana incorporated shrimp organization registered with the Louisiana Secretary of State, with three Task Force seats and three alternate seats to be selected from a list of eight nominees submitted by the Louisiana Shrimp Association and one Task Force seat and one alternate seat to be selected from a list of six nominees submitted by the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries". The motion was seconded by George Barisich. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Barisich asked if lines 28 and 29 on page two of HB 875 obligate that funds be used exclusively for expenses related to the petition filed by the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

Mr. Guidry replied that no, it doesn't. Mr. Guidry then mentioned that there is no representative from the Attorney General's office mentioned in the task force bill.

A motion was made by Mr. Barisich to add a seat on the shrimp task force for the attorney general's office. The motion was seconded by Clint Guidry. The motion carried unanimously.

A.J. Fabre said the Louisiana shrimp fishery should have limited entry of some sort.

Mr. Bourgeois suggested that the panel should discuss this during the agenda item about management opportunities.

Mr. Fabre said that he doesn't want folks to show up late and jump into shrimping when it's profitable.

Mr. Bourgeois said that LDWF is begun looking into limited entry options.

Mr. Fabre said that he would like there to be a clear definition of a commercial shrimper. He then suggested a moratorium on the sale of shrimp gear licenses.

Mr. Pausina said that a moratorium may be in order to avoid a run on licenses.

The panel debated the idea of a moratorium.

Mr. Alfonso objected to a license moratorium on grounds that it may one-day exclude his children from participating in the fishery.

Pete Gerica suggested a 1-2 year license moratorium to allow time to develop a limited entry plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Gerica for the department to draft legislation for a two year moratorium on the sale of commercial shrimp gear licenses using the previous crab bill as a guide. The motion was seconded by AJ Fabre. The motion carried with one abstention and one opposed.

Mr. Guidry said that any legislation involving a moratorium would have to be monitored closely.

Mr. Gerica encouraged the idea of a moratorium and agreed that any legislation would have to be monitored carefully.

A motion was made by Acy Cooper to get the inside/outside shrimp line revision fixed back to geographic points. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alfonso. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fabre said the shrimp industry should support re-instatement of the shrimp gear fee of \$15 to pay legal expenses and the money should go to the shrimp association so they can get out of debt.

Mr. Guidry said that they are trying to put together a fund for legal expenses related to anti-dumping or other legal expenses.

A motion was made by Mr. Fabre to reinstate an additional shrimp gear fee of \$15 to create a legal defense fund for the shrimp industry. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion carried unanimously.

Lance Nacio mentioned the large size of shrimp management zones and the idea of latitude micro-management with the creation of sub-zones.

Mr. Pausina cautioned that enforcement within new sub-zones is the tough part of this issue.

Vini Harlan, an instructor at LSU said she has a graduating class of graphic design students creating a logo for Louisiana shrimp. She requested assistance from shrimpers for members of her class to call on shrimpers for statements, photography and video to promote certification of wild caught shrimp. She asked for contact information and support from the shrimp industry.

Mr. Bourgeois asked if members would object to sharing their contact information with Ms. Harlan and said that he would provide her with member contact information.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronnie Anderson. The motion was seconded by Nick Alfonso. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.